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For the axial actuation of the covering 7 the outer ring 17 is actuated in the axial direction, i.e. according to the course of the hollow shank 1. Thus also the actuation rod 6 is axially moved so that the covering 7 may be pushed over the trough 5 of the scoop 2. In order to again open the trough the outer ring 17 is again pushed back, i.e. proximally.

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## **CLAIMS**

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- 1. A endoscopic sample taker for in particular cartilage material, comprising a hollow shank with a scoop arranged at its distal end, a handling means provided at the proximal end of the hollow shank, with an actuation organ, and an actuation rod axially movable in the hollow shank and connectable to the actuation organ, wherein to the trough of the scoop rigidly arranged on the hollow shank there is allocated a covering which may be displaced forwards and backwards and which is distally fastened on the actuation rod.
- 2. A sample taker according to claim 1, wherein the covering for the trough of the scoop consists of a metal tongue.
  - 3. A sample taker according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the covering for the trough of the scoop for the region of the trough has a circumferential shape which corresponds to the circumferential shape of the trough or essentially to the circumferential shape of the trough.
  - 4. A sample taker according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein in the hollow shank there is provided a holding-down device for guiding and holding the covering in the closure position on the scoop.
  - 5. A sample taker according to one of the claims 1 to 4, wherein the scoop is angled with respect to the hollow shank.